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- (21) Application No. 50221/76 (22) Filed 2 Dec. 1976 (19)
 (23) Complete Specification filed 22 Nov. 1977
 (44) Complete Specification published 7 March 1979
 (51) INT. CL.² A47B 81/00
 (52) Index at acceptance
 A4H 42 55 67



(54) IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO CABINETS FOR DARTBOARDS

(71) I, PETER ANTHONY MEGSON, a British subject, of 231, Reculver Road, Herne Bay, Kent, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to cabinets for housing dartboards.

Dartboards are frequently used in circumstances which require them to be artificially illuminated and this is normally achieved by arranging a light to shine on to the board from above or from one side thereof. Such methods of illumination produce an uneven illumination of the board with shadows thereon. The present invention provides a cabinet for housing a dartboard in such manner that the illumination of the dartboard is improved.

According to the invention, there is provided a cabinet for housing a dartboard, comprising a back member on which the dartboard may be supported, top and side walls, sheets of light-diffusing material located parallel to said top and side walls, means for supporting lighting elements between said top and side walls and said sheets of light-diffusing material, and a front wall covering said lighting elements only.

Said lighting elements may conveniently consist of fluorescent tubes and a particularly suitable light-diffusing material is diffused perspex.

Satisfactory illumination of the dartboard is effected by the provision of lighting elements with their associated diffusing means around the sides and top of the dartboard and a layer of tough light-reflecting material may be provided adjacent the bottom of the dartboard.

The area of the back member not covered by the dartboard may be covered with a material, such as softboard or rubber backed fibre for absorbing the impact of darts that miss the board.

According to another embodiment, the facia board forms an integral part of the cabinet and removable panels are incorporated

ated in the top and side walls to facilitate access to the lighting elements.

The cabinet may conveniently be provided with doors, preferably hinged thereto, and one or both of said doors may be suitably finished to act as a scoreboard.

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a cabinet according to the invention with the front wall removed,

Figure 2 is a cross-section of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a front elevation on a reduced scale of the facia board,

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of another embodiment on an enlarged scale, Figures 5 to 7 illustrate a detail, and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a cabinet with hinged doors.

Referring first to Figures 1 to 3, a cabinet for housing a dartboard comprises a back member 10, preferably of plywood, on which the dartboard may be supported, top and side walls 11 and 12 respectively, and a base 13. Lighting elements, preferably fluorescent tubes as shown, are supported parallel to the top and side walls 11 and 12, and sheets of light-diffusing material 15, preferably of diffused perspex, are located in front of the lighting elements 14 so that a diffused and shadowless light is projected across the face of the dartboard. The sheets 15 are conveniently located in position by means of grooved beadings 16 and 17. A layer 18 of light-reflecting material may be provided on the inner faces of the walls 11 and 12.

It is not desirable that a lighting element be disposed directly beneath the dartboard because of the danger of damage by falling parts but, in order to make maximum use of the light from the elements 14, a layer 19 of tough, light-reflecting material, such as formica, is located at the bottom of the cabinet.

The area of the back member 10 not covered by the dartboard is covered with a material 20, such as softboard or rubber backed fibre, for absorbing the impact of darts that miss the dartboard.

The front of the cabinet is closed by a fascia board 21 so that the lighting elements are obscured from direct vision, the fascia board being secured in position by means of screws 22 so that it may be removed in order to replace the lighting elements.

The cabinet may be provided with hinged doors 23 and, as shown in Figure 8, one at least of the doors may be finished as a black-board 24 for scoring.

According to a modification illustrated in Figure 4, the fascia board 25 forms an integral part of the cabinet. The top 26 and sides 27 of the cabinet are formed with removable panels 28 to facilitate access to the lighting elements 29 which are held in brackets 30 secured to the top and sides. The removable panels 28 are secured in position by means of screws 31. Ventilation holes 32 are formed in the top 26.

Figures 5 to 7 illustrate means for holding the dartboard in a selected position so that the dartboard may be rotated in order to secure even wear of the board. A bracket 33 is secured to the back member 10 by means of a bolt 34 which passes through an aperture 35 in a lug 36 of the bracket into engagement with a nut 37 countersunk into the back member 10. A lip 38 on the bracket 33 is adapted to engage between the metal rim 39 of the dartboard 40 and the dartboard. In order to rotate the dartboard, it is merely necessary to disengage the bracket by unscrewing the bolt 34.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A cabinet for housing a dartboard, comprising a back member on which the dartboard may be supported, top and side walls, sheets of light-diffusing material located parallel to said top and side walls, means for supporting lighting elements between said top and side walls and said sheets of light-diffusing material, and a front wall covering said lighting elements only.

2. A cabinet according to claim 1, wherein a layer of light-reflecting material is provided on the inner faces of said top and side walls.

3. A cabinet according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a layer of tough light-reflecting ma-

terial is located on a base connecting said side walls.

4. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said front wall is removable to facilitate access to said lighting elements.

5. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said top and side walls incorporate removable panels to facilitate access to said lighting elements.

6. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein ventilation holes are provided in said top wall.

7. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein said light-diffusing material consists of diffused perspex.

8. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein means are provided for holding the dartboard in position while enabling it to be rotated.

9. A cabinet according to claim 8, wherein said means comprise a bracket adapted to be secured to said back member and having a lip adapted to engage between the dartboard and a metal rim thereon.

10. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the area of said back member which is not covered by the dartboard when in position is covered with a material for absorbing the impact of darts that miss the dartboard.

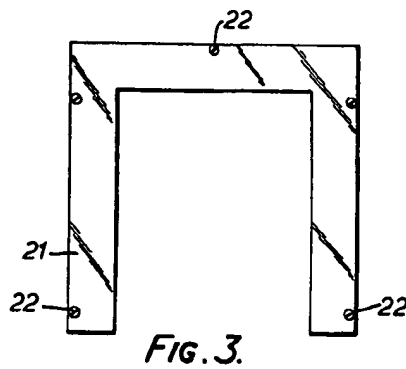
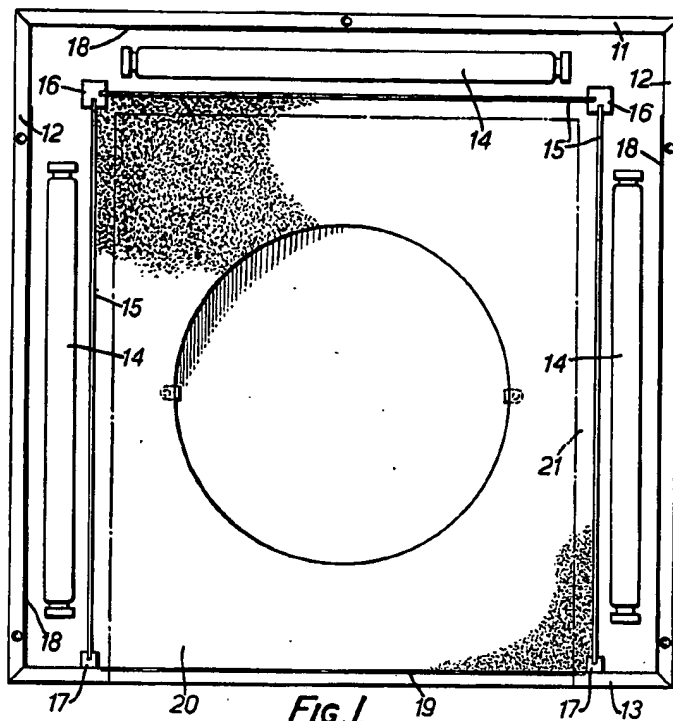
11. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 10, comprising lighting elements located between said top and side walls and said sheets of light-diffusing material.

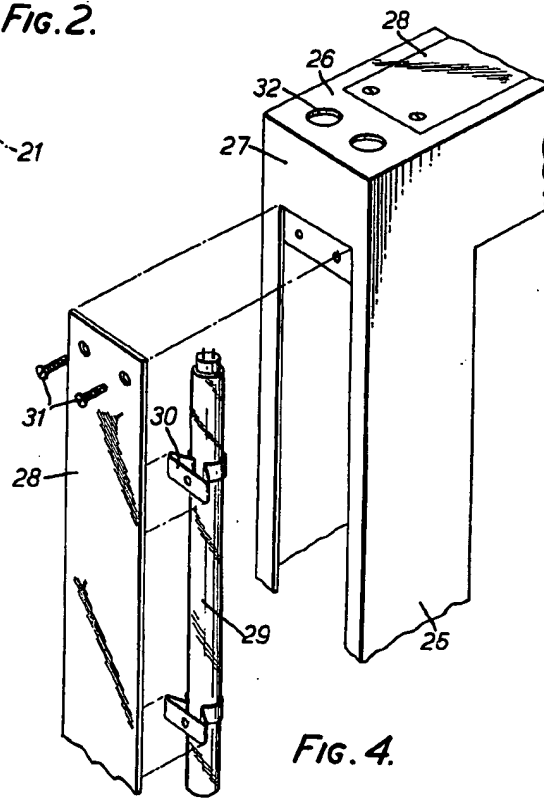
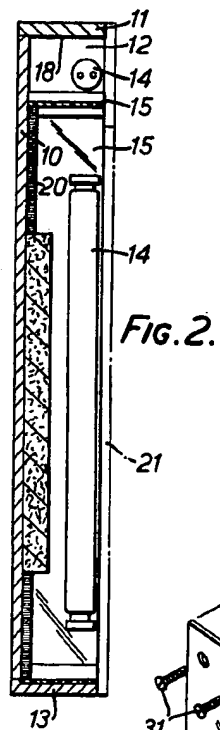
12. A cabinet according to claim 11, wherein said lighting elements consist of fluorescent tubes.

13. A cabinet according to any of claims 1 to 12, in combination with a dartboard supported by said back member.

14. A cabinet for housing and illuminating a dartboard substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

3 SHEETS

This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale
Sheet 3

